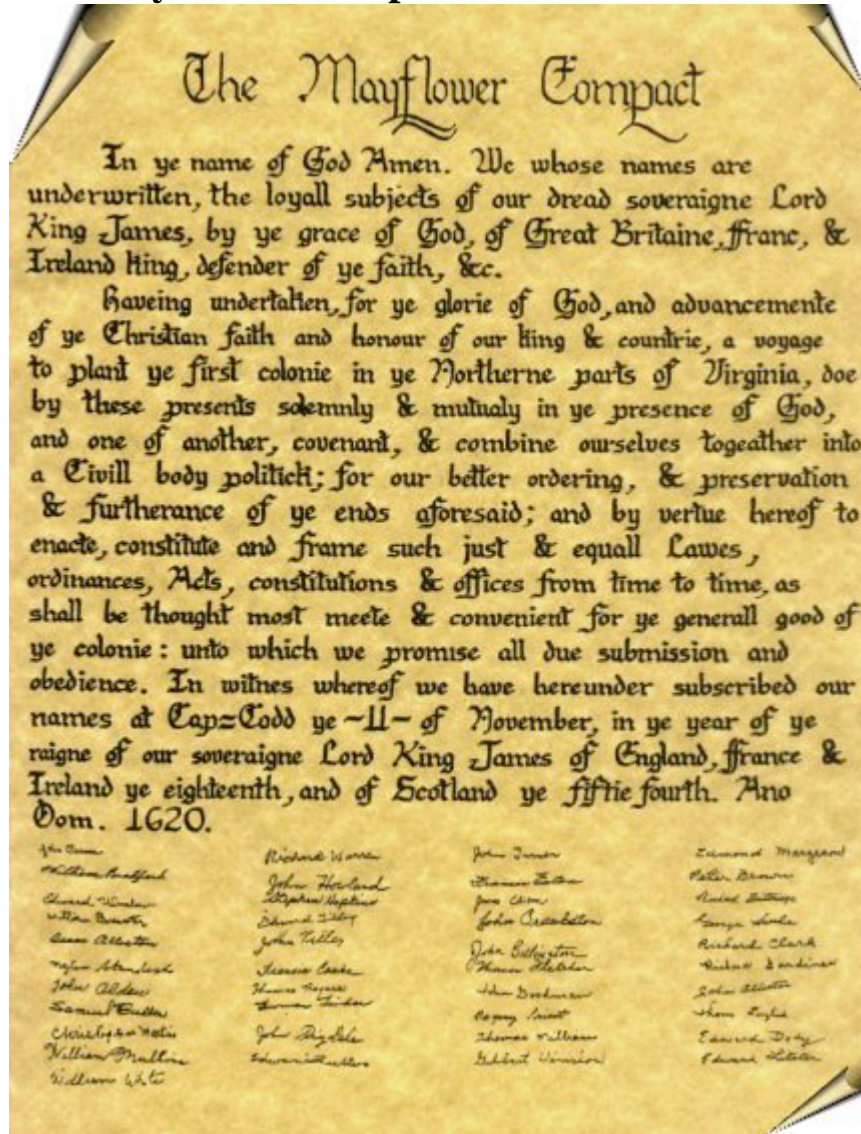
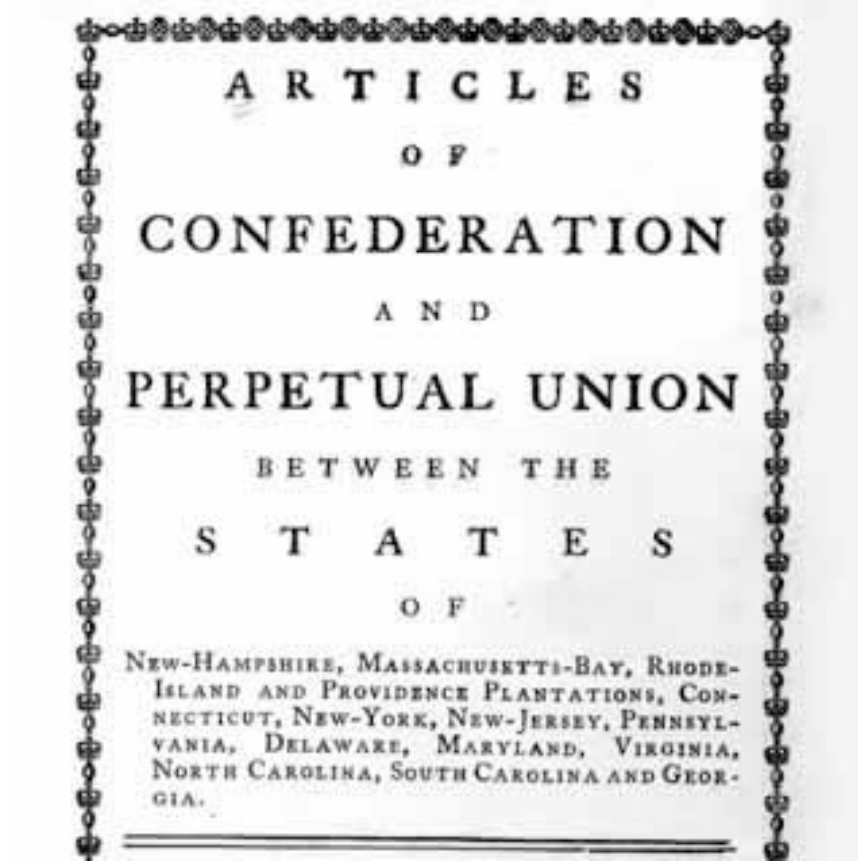


DOCUMENTS

The Mayflower Compact



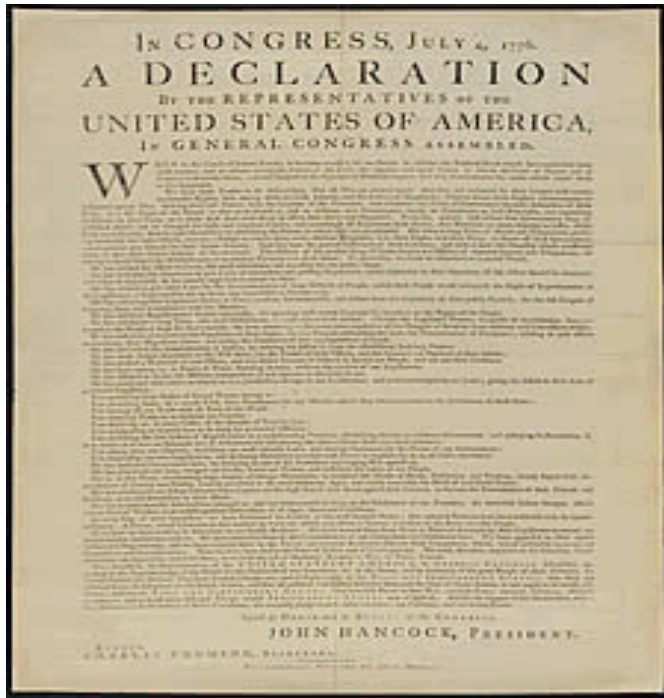
The ARTICLES of CONFEDERATION (AOC)



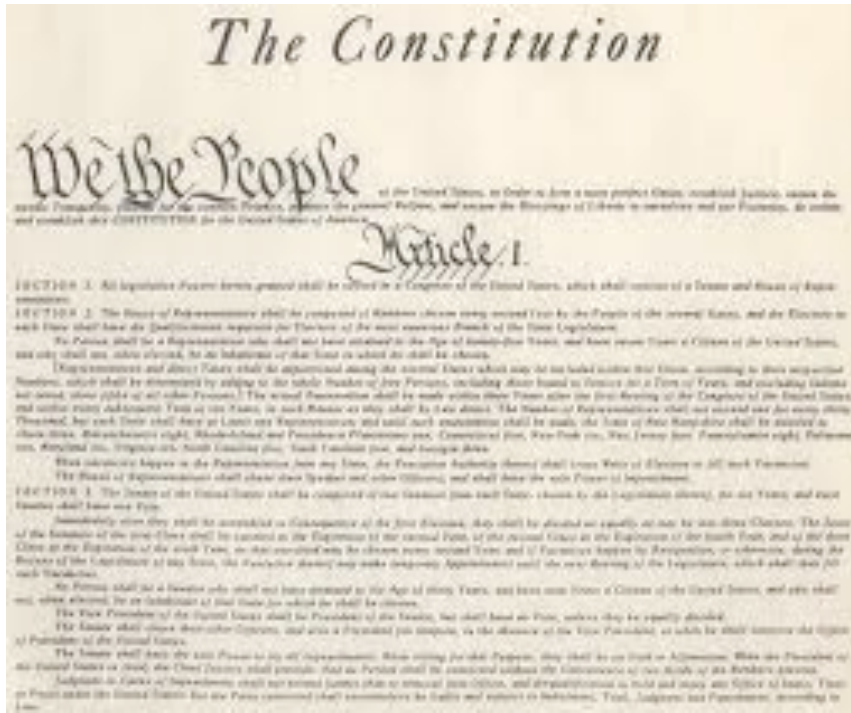
COMMON SENSE




DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE




THE CONSTITUTION



THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION of RIGHTS



Virginia Declaration of Rights





ORDINANCES

PASSED AT A GENERAL CONVENTION
OF DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES,
From the several COUNTIES and CORPORATIONS
OF VIRGINIA,
HELD AT THE *CAPITOL*,
IN THE CITY OF *WILLIAMSBURG*,
ON MONDAY THE 6th OF MAY
ANNO DOM: 1776.

WILLIAMSBURG:
PRINTED BY ALEXANDER PURDIE
PRINTER TO THE COMMONWEALTH

VIRGINIA STATUTE for RELIGIOUS FREEDOM





ALMIGHTY GOD HATH CREATED THE MIND FREE

THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WAS PASSED BY THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON JANUARY 16, 1786. DRAFTED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON, SHEPHERDED BY JAMES MADISON, IT REMAINS ONE OF THE BEACONS OF HUMAN LIBERTY. IT IS THE PRECURSOR OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION. ON THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATUTE, THIS TABLET IS PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BY THE CITIZENS TO COMMEMORATE THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

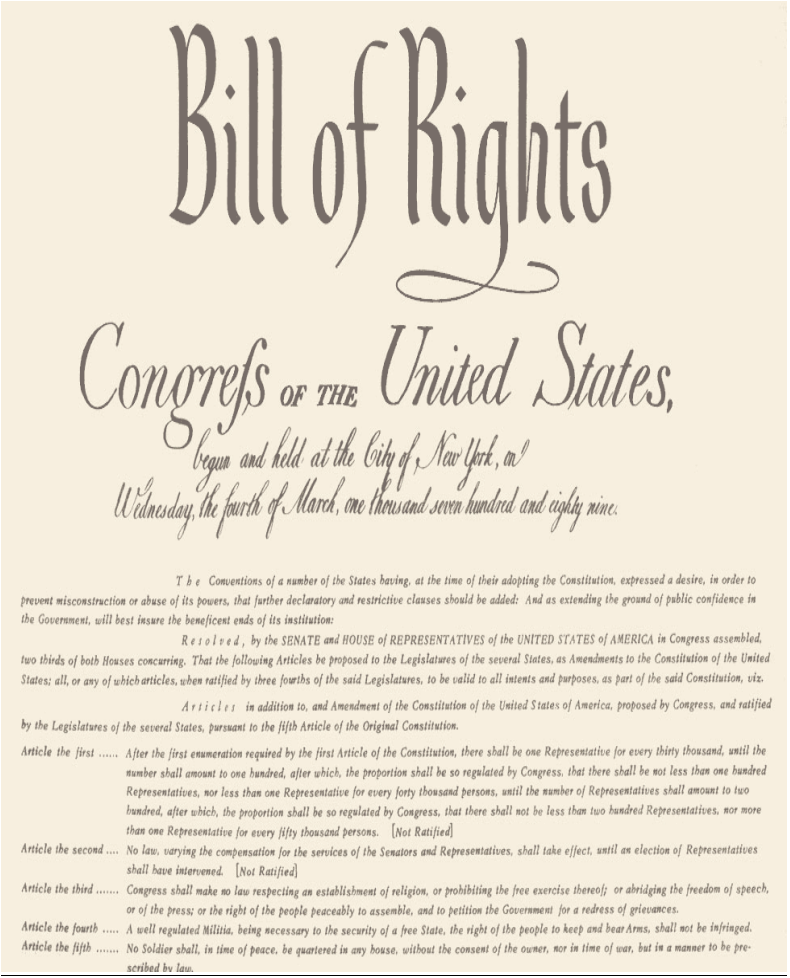
THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry, whatsoever, nor shall he enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.



Th. Jefferson

BILL of RIGHTS



EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

“That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free; and the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Address delivered at the dedication of the
Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Four years and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent, a new doc-
trine, concerning Liberty, and dedication
to the proposition that all men are cre-
ated equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that nation, or any nation
so conceived and so dedicated, can long
endure. We are met on a great battle-field
of that war. We have come to dedicate a
portion of that field, as a final resting
place for those who here gave their lives
that that nation might live. It is alto-
gether fitting and proper that we should
do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedi-
cate - we can not consecrate - we can not
hallow - this ground. The brave men, liv-
ing and dead, who struggled here, have con-
secrated it, far above our poor power to com-

or detract. The world will little note, nor
long remember what we say here, but it can
never forget what they did here. It is for
the living, rather, to be dedicated here to
the unfinished work which they who
gave here have thus far so nobly advanced.
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to
the great task remaining before us - that
from these honored dead we take increased
devotion to that cause for which they gave
the last full measure of devotion - that
we here highly resolve that these dead shall
not have died in vain - that this nation,
under God, shall have a new birth of free-
dom - and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not per-
ish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19, 1863.